



EARLY PORTRAIT OF QUEEN VICTORIA, BY J. FÖRM.

See "Victoria's Promise," page 120.

MACMILLAN'S
HISTORY READERS

SIMPLE STORIES
FROM ENGLISH HISTORY

A READING BOOK

STANDARD II

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WITH LISTS OF ACCENTED WORDS, AND ILLUSTRATIONS

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	PAGE
1. England in the Olden Time. <i>Illustrated</i>	5
2. King Alfred and the Cakes. <i>Illustrated</i>	11
3. Alfred the Harper. <i>Illustrated</i>	16
4. William of Normandy and the Curfew Bell. <i>Illustrated</i>	21
5. The New Forest and the Death of the Red King. <i>Illustrated</i>	26
6. Rufus the Red King	30
7. Thomas Becket	32
8. King Richard and the Jews. <i>Illustrated</i>	37
9. A Castle	42
10. Robin Hood. <i>Illustrated</i>	47
11. Robin Hood and Allen-a-Dale. <i>Illustrated</i>	51
12. William Wallace	58
13. Robert Bruce. <i>Illustrated</i>	62
14. The Siege of Calais. <i>Illustrated</i>	65
15. The Black Death	72
16. Wat Tyler. <i>Illustrated</i>	74
17. King Henry V. <i>Illustrated</i>	79
18. Joan Dare. <i>Illustrated</i>	82
19. Printing the First Book in England. <i>Illustrated</i>	86
20. The Princes in the Tower. <i>Illustrated</i>	92
21. Queen Margaret and the Robber. <i>Illustrated</i>	96
22. Mary Queen of Scots. <i>Illustrated</i>	100
23. King Philip of Spain	103
24. Sir Philip Sidney. <i>Illustrated</i>	106
25. The Gunpowder Plot. <i>Illustrated</i>	109
26. The Great Fire. <i>Illustrated</i>	114
27. Nelson. <i>Illustrated</i>	117
28. Victoria's Promise. <i>Illustrated</i>	120
29. Sir Henry Havelock	122

1.—England in the Older

coun'try	op'po-site	col'oured
al'ways	rough	sto'ries
beau'ti-ful	great'er	prized
swift'ly	break'fast	in-stead'
chil'dren	ear'ly	to-geth'er
glid'ing	coffee	di-vid'ed
hun'dred	pic'tures	si'zes
thou'sand	par'ents	hed'ges
al-though'	af-ford'	po-ta'toes
hol'i-days	car'pet	pleas'ant
chim'ney	co'sy	brid'ges
sol'dier	news'pa-pers	vill'a-ges
hel'mets	priests	ev'er-y-where
shields	preach	beav'ers
spears	be-cause'	boars
	hand'le	

1. THIS country we live in did not always look as it does now. If we live in a town or city we see nicely-built houses,

and fine shops full of useful and beautiful things.

2. We walk along smooth and hard roads. There are cabs and tramcars moving swiftly by us with their load of men, women, and children. We see the railway train gliding by. It has perhaps come three hundred miles in a few hours.

3. But if we had been born a thousand years ago in a town or city of England, we should have seen none of these things, although we should have played many of the games that boys and girls now play.

4. There would have been no school to go to. "What, all holidays!" you say; "how fine!"

5. Let us fancy we are Saxon boys and girls living in a town ten hundred years ago.

6. Our house is low and made of wood. There is no upstairs at all, no chimney, no glass window. If our father is a very rich man, or a great soldier, perhaps our



A FEAST IN ENGLAND IN THE OLDEN TIME.

house is made of stone ; and inside, hanging up on the walls, are helmets, shields, spears, swords, bows and arrows.

7. Let us run out into the street. It is paved right across to the opposite houses with large rough stones as big as our heads. If our house is not in one of the best streets there is no paving at all, but deep ruts and holes, which are full of mud and water for the greater part of the year.

8. We sit down to breakfast very early in the morning at a long, bare, wooden table. Instead of chairs we have rough wooden stools.

9. There is no tea or coffee, but plenty of milk, cheese, honey, and dark-looking bread. There are no pictures, nor is there any clock on the walls.

10. Perhaps, if our parents can afford it, a kind of carpet-stuff will hang all round the walls to keep the cold out and make it look more cosy.

11. No picture - books, story - books,

or newspapers are to be seen anywhere. They would be no good if they were here, for only one or two men in the town can read, and they are the priests who preach in the big church.

12. If we know one of these priests and go to his house to see him, we shall see what kind of books he has. He shows us ten books, all written with pen and ink, because nobody has found out yet the way to print.

13. He shows us one or two very funny, coloured pictures, which took a man weeks or months to draw. What are the books about? Nearly all are Bible stories.

14. These ten books are prized very much by the good priest, for there are not many in the country, and he gave as much money for them as would buy a house.

15. People who go to the great church on Sunday have to sit on wooden stools

instead of chairs or in pews. There may be an organ in the church, but it would only have a few pipes.

16. The singing is very beautiful, for the men who live together in the great house close by the church spend a great deal of time in learning to sing well.

17. Now let us come back to the England of to-day. If our home is in the country, or we go into the country for our summer holiday, we see the ground divided up into fields of all shapes and sizes, by hedges and walls.

18. In some fields grass is growing, and horses, cows, or sheep grazing. In others, wheat, barley, or oats is growing, and in another field perhaps we shall find peas, turnips, or potatoes.

19. Pleasant roads and lanes wind about between these fields. Little bridges cross the streams, and if we climb a hill we see farms and villages dotted about everywhere.

20. But in the early times things were

not so nice. All round the house ~~was a~~ great wood full of wild boars, wild cats, deer, rabbits, and hares.

21. The river that ran through it was full of fish, beavers, and otters. Close by was a great marsh. Hundreds of wild birds lived on the marsh.

22. If you wished to cross the river you must wade, swim, or get on a horse, for there were no bridges. Food was got by shooting boars, birds, or deer with bow and arrows, or spearing them. Children began very young to learn how to shoot and to handle the spear.

2.—King Alfred and the Cakes

ter'ri-ble	peace'ful	a-mused'
moth'ers	din'ner	trust'y
fierce	ar'rows	beat'en
clothes	thought	a-fraid'
sur-round'ed	an'gry	tow'er
ex-cept'	la'zy	flocked
strange	e-nough'	build
	teach	

1. All the people in the towns and the country alike were afraid of some terrible men who came in their ships across the sea, and tried to take away the towns and fields from their owners and live there instead.

2. They robbed the houses and churches, and set fire to them. They killed all the men, and even the mothers and the children who could not get away to the woods and hide.

3. They sailed up the rivers into the country, and burned everything they could not carry away.

4. These fierce people were called Danes, and so many of them came one year that King Alfred found that his soldiers were afraid to follow him and fight.

5. So King Alfred thought that he would wait a little until he could get soldiers enough to drive the Danes out of the country.

6. He put on the clothes of a shep-

herd or herdsman, and went to a place surrounded by a great marsh. Here he found a herdsman's cottage, and asked the herdsman to allow him to live there for a time.

7. "I don't want anybody except you to know who I am," said King Alfred. "I am the King, but I want you to give me work to do."

8. Alfred made himself useful to the herdsman and his wife in many ways, but she did not know who the strange servant-man was. At his work he was always thinking how he could drive away the Danes, so that the country of which he was so fond should be happy and peaceful.

9. One day the herdsman's wife was baking some cakes for dinner, and as she had some other work to do, she told the King to see they did not burn till she came back. Alfred was making bows and arrows for his soldiers, and he was so busy thinking about the Danes

that he never thought any more about the cakes.

10. When the woman came back and



"SHE WAS VERY ANGRY."

saw her cakes burning, she was very angry, and told Alfred that although he was too lazy to look after the cakes, he was always ready enough to eat them.

11. Alfred was very sorry that he had not done as he was bid, but very much amused to think that the woman did not know he was the King.

12. Alfred had told one or two trusty soldiers where he was hiding, and at last heard from them that the Danes had been beaten in battle, and that the people were not so much afraid of them as they used to be.

13. So Alfred left the herdsman's cottage, and lifted up his flag on the top of a hill in a great wood called Selwood. On this spot now stands a tall three-cornered brick tower called King Alfred's Tower, to remind us of what happened there so long ago.

14. The flag on the hill could be seen for many miles round. Soldiers flocked to Alfred, and his army became so strong that the Danes were driven right away to another part of the country, which King Alfred gave to them.

15. Then King Alfred went back to

his home, and got the people to build their towns and churches again. He sent over the sea to ask clever men to come and teach his people. He wrote books for them to read, taught them a great many useful things, and was such a good king that ever since he has been called Alfred the Great.

3.—Alfred the Harper

watch	wealth	swayed
i'dly	daugh'ter	Guth'rum
ca-roused'	ri'ot	be-fits'
feast'ed	stalked	guard
quaffed	war'ri-or	just'est
be-stained'	in-flamed'	biddst
kin'dling	de-served'	vis'age
drained	min'strel	ghast'ly

1. Dark fell the night, the watch was set,
 The host was idly spread ;
 The Danes around their watch-fires
 met,
 Caroused, and fiercely fed.

They feasted all on English food,
And quaffed the English ale ;
Their hearts leapt up with burning
blood
At each old Norseman's tale.

2. A mace beside each king and lord
Was seen, with blood bestained ;
From golden cups upon the board
Their kindling wine they drained.
Ne'er left their sad storm-beaten coast
Sea-kings so hot for gore ;
'Mid Selwood's oaks so dreadful host
Ne'er burnt a track before.

3. They loaded many an English horse
With wealth of cities fair ;
They dragged from many a father's
corse
The daughter by her hair.
And English slaves, and gems and
gold,
Were gathered round the feast ;
Till midnight in their woodland hold
That riot never ceased.

4. In stalked a warrior tall and rude,
 Before the strong sea-kings :
 “ Ye lords and earls of Odin’s brood,
 Without a harper sings.
He seems a simple man and poor,
 But well he sounds the lay,
And well, ye Norseland chiefs, be sure
 Will ye the song repay.”
5. In trod the bard with keen, cold look,
 And glanced along the board,
That with the shout and war-cry
 shook
 Of many a Danish lord.
But thirty brows, inflamed and stern,
 Soon bent on him their gaze,
While calm he gazed as if to learn
 Who chief deserved his praise.
6. Loud rang the harp, the minstrel’s eye
 Rolled fiercely round the throng ;
It seemed two crashing hosts were
 nigh,
 Whose shock aroused the song.

A golden cup King Guthrum gave
To him who strongly played ;



"A GOLDEN CUP KING GUTHRUM GAVE
TO HIM WHO STRONGLY PLAYED."

And said, "I won it from the slave
Who once o'er England swayed."

7. King Guthrum cried, "'Twas Alfred's
own !

Thy song befits the brave ;

The king who cannot guard his throne
Nor wine nor song shall have.”
The minstrel took the goblet bright,
And said, “I drink the wine
To him who owns by justest right
The cup thou biddst be mine.”

8. The harper turned and left the shed,
Nor bent to Guthrum's crown,
And one who marked his visage said
It wore a ghastly frown.
The Danes ne'er saw the harper more,
For, soon as morning rose,
Upon their camp King Alfred bore,
And slew ten thousand foes.

J. STERLING (*abridged*).

1. *The watch was set.* Soldiers were put to guard the camp.
Caroused. Feasted, and made merry.
Quaffed. Drank deeply.
Norsemen. Men from the north, who came and robbed the people all along the west coasts of Europe.
2. *Mace.* A weapon made of a heavy iron ball studded with spikes, fastened to the end of a strong stick.

Kindling wine. Wine that made them hot and angry.

Their sad storm-beaten coast. The coasts of Norway and Denmark.

So hot for gore. Eager to slay somebody.

Burnt a track. The Norsemen burnt and plundered villages and farms wherever they went.

3. *Corse.* Dead body.

Woodland hold. Their strong camp in the heart of the forest.

Riot. Tumult, or disturbance.

4. *Stalked.* Walked with stately strides.

Odin's brood. The Norsemen believed themselves to be the children of Odin, their god.

6. *Guthrum.* The Danish king.

8. *Visage.* Face, countenance.

Ghastly. Terrible-looking.

Bore. Advanced.

4.—William of Normandy and the Curfew Bell

com'fort-a-ble	po-lite'	cun'ning
reg'u-lar-ly	cur'few	

1. King Alfred had been dead nearly two hundred years, and we had now a king called Edward. Until he was made King of England, Edward lived in

France, and his home was in that part of France which the Danes had taken.

2. The Danes called themselves Northmen because they came from the North, and the people round about changed this to Norman. That part of France is still called Normandy.

3. These Normans were very clever men, and became the best warriors, the best builders, and the strongest rulers in the world.

4. Young Edward forgot how to speak his own English words, and learned to speak the French that the Normans spoke. He learned, too, to like the clever Norman people very much, and thought them a great deal better than the English.

5. When Edward was chosen king, and came back to England, he brought with him a great many of his Norman friends, and gave them houses, lands, and money, and got them to build more beautiful churches than the English had

done. These Normans also built stronger and more comfortable houses to live in than the English.

6. They wore better clothes and were much more polite, and quicker at learning than the English. Many of the English looked up to them as very grand folk ; but most of the people wished they had never come, and that they had a king like Alfred who loved his own people.

7. King Edward had no son to become king when he died. Without asking his people whom they would like for their next king, he promised his friend William, the Duke of Normandy, that he should be the next king.

8. But when Edward died the people chose Harold, a very brave prince, to be their king.

9. As soon as William, the Norman prince, heard what the people had done, he was very angry, and said he would come with an army, drive King Harold

away, and be King of England whether the people liked it or not.

10. He brought across a great army, and King Harold tried to stop it from marching to London.



"THE NORMANS WON THE BATTLE."

11. But though King Harold and his men fought bravely, the Normans were the more cunning and won the battle. King Harold was killed by an arrow, and most of his brave soldiers with him.

12. William the Norman then went to London with his soldiers and forced the people to make him king ; but the English people never liked him, and were always trying to drive him back to Normandy.

13. Every night at eight o'clock in many villages a bell rings from the church tower. For eight hundred years this has been done more or less regularly.

14. King William the Norman wished all his people to be in bed at eight o'clock in winter and all the fires put out. He wanted this partly because he was afraid that the people would meet together after dark, and make plans to drive him away. And then the wooden houses in the towns were so often burnt down because the fires were not put out, that he thought this would make them safer.

15. The bell was rung to tell people to cover over the fires, and was called the Curfew Bell, because "curfew" meant "cover fire."

16. Many people had great iron covers like half a dish-cover, and when these were put over the fire, it soon went out.

5.—The New Forest and the Death of the Red King

o-beyed'	qui'et-ly	Win'ches-ter
ex'er-cise	glades	glanced
fright'ened		ca-the'dral

1. When William the Norman king was not busy in battle, or in seeing that the laws were obeyed by the English people, he was very fond of hunting. He was the strongest man in England.

2. Perhaps it was partly his love for exercise in the open air that made him so strong. He had a bow made of wood so stiff that no one but himself could bend it.

3. When riding on his horse at full speed through the woods after the boars and stags, he would place the arrow on the string, pull it back until the bow was

quite bent, and the arrow would speed away and strike the animal down.

4. King William spent much of his time at Winchester. He often wished there were a large forest near, so that he might hunt the deer and the boar whenever he was living at Winchester.

5. But the place that he would have liked to be forest-country was full of farms and snug little villages, where honest people were living quietly and comfortably.

6. So King William said: "I will drive these people away from their homes, burn their villages, plant the whole country with trees, and fill it with wild animals. Then I can hunt whenever I like."

7. This was done as the King ordered, and the poor people had to leave the homes they loved, so that the cruel King might please himself with hunting.

8. This forest which King William planted is still called the New Forest, and still belongs to English kings and

queens. If you ever go to Bournemouth, you will very likely go for a drive to "Rufus' Stone," a place right at the farther end of the forest.

9. You will pass through some very beautiful places, and will at last stop in front of a stone which is railed round. As far as you can see on every side there are trees and open grassy glades.

10. Where that stone is now, there used to stand a great old oak-tree. After King William was dead, his red-haired son William became king, and he, like his father, often hunted in this forest when staying at Winchester.

11. He and many of his friends were one day hunting just on this spot when a tall stag rushed past the oak-tree. One of the King's friends at once shot an arrow after it, but instead of striking the stag, it just glanced along the bark of the tree.

12. This turned it aside, straight to the heart of the Red-haired King. The

knight who shot at the stag was so frightened, that he rode off to the sea-



"A POOR MAN CAME BY WITH HIS CART."

shore, and got away in a ship as fast as he could.

13. All the others were frightened too, and they rode away.

14. There the dead King lay until the

next morning, when a poor man came by with his cart, and seeing the dead body, took it up and placed it in his cart.

15. The poor man brought it to Winchester, where it was buried; and if you go there to see the grand Cathedral, you can still see the tomb of William Rufus, or William the Red-haired King.

6.—Rufus the Red King

bram'bles	reck'less	lair
meet'ly	ruth'less	hearth
am'bushed		pierced

1. Along the forest grounds at morn
 The Red King passed alone,
 By ruined wall, by roofless hut,
 With brambles overgrown.

2. Small thought had he of homeless
 poor,
 Small care for bondsman's lack,

Nor where his father's hand had
robbed

Restored he meetly back.

3. But reckless, ruthless in his sport,
He galloped down the path,
To rouse the wild deer from his lair
Upon his people's hearth.
4. A stag rose up ; his bow in haste
The ambushed Tyrrel drew,
The glancing arrow turned aside
And pierced the Red King through.
5. None raised him up, none sought to
stay
The fast departing breath ;
Forsaken and alone he proved
The bitterness of death !

REV. G. E. MAUNSELL (*abridged*).

2. *Small thought had he.* He cared very little.
Bondsman's lack. The want or need of the poor
man.
Meetly. Fittingly, suitably.
3. *Reckless.* Without any care for the consequences.

Ruthless. Without any pity for others.

Lair. Hiding place.

4. *Ambushed.* Lying in wait.

7.—Thomas Becket

choir	Sar'a-cens	pris'on-er
guide	Pal'es-tine	dun'geon
be-lieved'	pil'grims	chief
bur'ied	meant	sail'ors
	quar'rel	ax'es

1. Perhaps you have been in your holidays to the seaside at Margate or Ramsgate, and while staying there have paid a visit to the old city of Canterbury. On coming into the city, you see high up above all the houses the grand towers and lofty roof of the great Cathedral Church.

2. A great many things have happened since the Cathedral was built, and this story is about a famous man who was killed in it. If you go inside and walk right up the middle of the church you will come to some steps which lead into the place where the choir sings.

3. On the left-hand side there is a little chapel, like a separate room in the church, and there the guide will show you the spot where Thomas Becket was murdered.

4. The father of Thomas was a soldier whose name was Gilbert Becket.

5. Seven hundred years ago when he lived, many kings and princes sailed away with their armies to Palestine, where Jesus lived and died.

6. The tomb where people believed Jesus to have been buried was visited by thousands of people; but a large army of soldiers called Saracens had conquered Palestine, and had driven the pilgrims away.

7. These pilgrims told their own kings how badly the Saracens had treated them, and the kings made up their minds to drive these Saracens out of Palestine. Every soldier that went wore a cross on his shoulder, which meant that he was a soldier of the Cross.

8. Gilbert Becket was one of these soldiers, and while fighting in Palestine he was taken prisoner by a Saracen chief and put into a deep dungeon.

9. The chief's daughter took pity on him and secretly let him out. Then Gilbert got on board a ship and sailed to London. The chief's daughter was very sorry he had gone away, for she loved him.

10. She could only speak two English words—"London," and "Gilbert"—but she made up her mind she would go after him and find him.

11. She kept on saying the word "London" until she got some sailors to take her into a ship that was going to London.

12. When she got to London she walked up and down the streets calling "Gilbert! Gilbert!"

13. It would take a long time now to find out a stranger in London by shouting his name, but in Gilbert's time, London was only a small city.

14. At last she found Gilbert and became his wife. Their little son Thomas grew up to be one of the wisest men in England, and became the friend of King Henry.

15. The King wished that the English people should live happily, and that wicked men should be punished. At that time many of the priests were very bad men ; and when they did bad acts, even murder, they were not punished like other people.

16. King Henry saw that this was wrong, and made up his mind to alter it. So he placed over all the priests and churches in England his friend Thomas Becket.

17. But Thomas at once turned round and took the side of the priests, instead of helping the King to put matters right. There was a great quarrel for many years between King Henry and Becket ; and at last, when Henry was in France, he heard that Becket, instead of trying to

rule in peace, was making things worse in England.

18. Henry was very angry, and said he wished he were rid of Becket. Becket lived at Canterbury, because Canterbury Cathedral was the chief church in England. And as soon as Henry spoke those angry words, four of his soldiers, thinking they would please him, hurried across to England in a ship and went to Canterbury.

19. They found Thomas Becket at dinner. They ordered him to do as the King wished, but he refused ; and in the evening when Thomas Becket went to service in the Cathedral, they fell upon him with their axes and swords and killed him.

20. For four hundred years after this, rich and poor used to visit the tomb of Becket in Canterbury Cathedral, and lay upon it such presents as they could afford.

8.—King Richard and the Jews

cer'tain	jeal'ous	cost'ly
prop'er-ty	mis'er-y	heaped
	sav'age	

1. If we go into some parts of London to-day, we see men and women with dark hair and eyes and a certain look about their face that tells us at once they are not English people.

2. These people are the Jews, who have many times been driven from their own country and are found all over the world. They have always been a very clever people, and many of them in London to-day are very rich. Some of the most beautiful music we have has been written by Jews.

3. A great many Jews were living in England at the time King Henry died. They bought beautiful and useful things made in Italy and other countries and sold them in London.

4. They became so rich that they were

able to lend money to those who wanted it. The new King, Richard, a soldier so brave that he was called Richard of the Lion Heart, was about to set out for Palestine to drive the Saracens out of the country.

5. Many of the great men in England had soldiers of their own, and wished to take them to help the King.

6. But it would take a great deal of money to find food and clothes and swords and spears for all these soldiers, and to take them so far in ships ; so the great men asked the rich Jews to lend them some money.

7. The Jews said : “ We will lend it if you pay us back a certain amount more than we give you. If you won’t do this, we will have your houses and fields.”

8. These great men hated the Jews then, because they felt that the Jews could take away their property if the money was not paid.

9. Many traders in London were

jealous of them because they were so rich, and it was believed that it was right to rob them and use them badly. This was of course a very foolish thing to believe, but it brought much suffering and misery on the Jews. They knew they were hated, and so always tried to get the King to protect them.

10. The new King, Richard, was going to be crowned at Westminster Abbey, and afterwards there was to be a great dinner, with his friends, in the Great Hall close by. When you go into this hall you can think that it was built by the Red-haired King, and I expect you will say that the builders of those days must have been good builders, because their work lasts so long.

11. We can fancy the crowds of people in the Abbey waiting to see the King crowned, and wondering at the great tables being set all along the Hall, and covered with beef and boar's flesh, and fruit and wine.

12. Richard had said that no Jews were to come to the Abbey or the Hall on that day, because he was afraid they would do him some harm. But a few Jews thought they would take some very costly presents to the King and ask him to protect them.

13. They pushed through the crowd and laid their gifts before Richard, who was much pleased.

14. As they were going out the King's servants pushed them about. When the people in the street saw that, they thought that the King had given them leave to do what they liked with the Jews.

15. Many of the great men who owed money to the Jews led crowds of people against them. The frightened Jews fled to their homes, being beaten with clubs and stoned as they went. Some were killed and others very much hurt.

16. Those who got home bolted themselves in, while the people outside heaped

wood and straw outside the doors, and set fire to them. So savage and cruel were the people that when the houses did not burn fast enough, men forced



“THE FRIGHTENED JEWS FLED TO THEIR HOMES.”

their way in, and threw into a fire in the street poor, sick, old men, helpless women, and little children.

17. Nearly all the Jews in London were killed in this fearful way, while

King Richard was sitting at his feast in Westminster Hall. And though he was told about it, he made no effort to stop it until it was too late.

9.—A Castle

sup-pose'	ditch	pitch
square	o'-pen-ings	jack'ets
bush'es	trench	

1. Let us suppose that we are living in England at the time of our last story. We go into the country and do not get very far before we see on a hill a great dark pile of buildings. Higher than any other part of the building we see a tall square tower, which looks so strong that it seems as if nothing could ever shake it. We can see too that there is a high wall going all round this strongly built place.

2. We ask our friends what such large strong places are built for, and are told that one of the King's great men—a Norman soldier—lives there with his

family and a great many servants and soldiers. We are told that the King gave to this great man all the country for miles around, and asked him to build this strong castle. Here he was to live, and keep the country in order for the King.

3. They had to build such very strong places because the people did not like their Norman rulers, and would drive them all away if they could. A deep ditch filled with water runs all round the outside wall. Nobody can get to that strong gate on the other side unless some of the people inside let down a wooden bridge.

4. But when they know who we are, they tell the men to let down the bridge. Over we go, and through the gateway, wondering at the thick walls and the strong gates.

5. But right in front of us is another gate, with a tall round tower on each side. What are all those openings in the

towers for? Through them the men inside can shoot at any one trying to force the gate open.

6. Over our heads there are some more great openings in the gateway. What are these for? Over the gateway is a room where there is a fireplace, with plenty of lead and pitch, and great pots to melt them in. If soldiers were trying to push the gate in, the men in the room above would pour the hot melted pitch and lead on their heads.

7. We go through this dark gateway and find ourselves in a large paved yard. Right across the other side is the tall square tower. How large it looks! They tell us that up there are the rooms where the great lord and his lady live. We can see soldiers walking about on the top, keeping guard.

8. Under this tall tower or "keep," as it is called, there is a dark, damp room which is used as a prison.

9. Close to the tall tower is another

gate, in a wall that runs right across the yard. Through this gate we go, and find ourselves in another large yard. Here there are a lot of houses like a little village ; there is a chapel too !

10. In some of these houses live the soldiers. The soldiers are running backwards and forwards and shouting to each other. They are carrying axes and swords and spears and bows and arrows in large numbers into the keep.

11. All the servants, too, are crowding into the tall keep. The top of the tower is full of soldiers and others, dressed in steel jackets and iron helmets.

12. They tell us that a man who lives in another castle near has called his soldiers together to try to get into this castle and kill the people.

13. They have made a bridge across the ditch, and are now trying to break the great gate with their axes. But the gate is well kept, and the enemy are at last driven away.

14. We are safe in the keep and hear the soldiers at the top shouting "They are going!" How glad we are that they did not stop longer and try to burn the castle, or to keep us there until all the food was gone.

15. To-day, after such a long time, many of these strong keeps are still standing. Some of them, like the Tower of London, are as strong as ever. Others are in ruins, with the outside walls all broken down, and bushes and ivy growing upon them.

16. You will see a deep, dry trench, covered with grass, instead of a ditch full of water. Still you can fancy how it would look with all the walls and gates up again, and the soldiers running about, or on the look-out at the top.

10.—Robin Hood

grass'y

emp'ty

health'y

mer'chants

split

1. Have you ever had a summer holiday in a wood? It is one of the best ways of spending a fine day. The trees are so beautiful that one is never tired of looking at them. The air, grass, and flowers are so nice, and the birds so merry, that no one can be sad. There are no walls or gates either to keep us from running just wherever we like.

2. When the wood is very large, so that for many miles there is nothing but trees and grassy glades, it is called a forest. There are still some forests in England, such as Epping Forest; the New Forest where King Rufus was killed; and Sherwood Forest in the middle of England.

3. But there used to be many more, and those that are left were very much

larger. Epping Forest was ten times as big as it is now ; and to the north of London was a large forest where the Londoners used to hunt the wild deer and the boar. Only one tiny piece of this is left, called Highgate Wood.

4. But six hundred years ago Sherwood Forest was a very big forest, and many of the oaks that were growing then are still fine old trees.

5. When these trees were young, there was living in this forest a man named Robin Hood. He had to hide himself in the forest to save his life.

6. The rich and powerful men had treated Robin very badly, and he said that if others would come and live with him in the woods they need never again go back to the towns and villages to live unhappy lives. They would serve these rich people out by making them empty their purses when they came through the forest, but if poor men came they would give them money.

7. Robin Hood and his men lived a healthy and free life under the green-wood tree. When they wanted meat they shot the deer and the boar, and when they wanted other things they took them from the rich merchants who often had to pass through the forest.

8. So clever were they at shooting with the bow and arrow, that if you had cut a little stick and set it upright, Robin Hood or his men would stand a long way off and split it with an arrow. Many good stories are told of Robin and his merry men, but we have only room for one.

9. One day they saw a man riding along on his horse, who did not look poor, but seemed very sad. His hat was over his eyes, and he did not seem to care much where he was going. Robin Hood asked the sad knight to have dinner with them. After dinner Robin said to him : "You must pay me for it now. Give me all your money."

10. This seemed very unkind, but Robin was only trying to find out if he were a rich man or not. "I have only



"ROBIN HOOD ASKED THE SAD KNIGHT TO HAVE DINNER WITH THEM."

a few pieces of silver in my purse," said the knight. "I have spent all the rest of my money in paying a great deal to keep my son out of prison."—"Is that why you are looking so sad?" said Robin. Then the knight said that he

was going to the city of York, and if he could not pay a man there some money, all his lands would be taken away.

11. Robin Hood asked: "How much money do you want?"—"Four hundred pounds," said the poor knight. "Give it to him," said Robin to his men; and with the money in his pocket the knight was sent away very happy.

12. Robin Hood was so much loved for kind acts like this, that many songs were sung about him long after he was dead.

11.—Robin Hood and Allen-a-Dale

a-ware'	court'e-ous-ly	wealth'y
young'ster	where-by'	bride'groom
frisk	quoth	fa-mil'iar
round'e-lay	hast'ed	glit'ter-ing
straight	pri'thee	match
	lea	

1. As Robin Hood in the forest stood,
All under the greenwood tree,

There was he aware of a fine young
man,

As fine as fine could be.

2. The youngster was clothed in scarlet
red,

In scarlet fine and gay,
And he did frisk it over the plain,
And chanted a roundelay.

3. As Robin Hood next morning stood
Amongst the leaves so gay,
There did he spy the same young
man

Come drooping along the way.

4. The scarlet he wore the day before
It was clean cast away,
And at every step he fetched a sigh,
Alack ! and well-a-day !

5. Then stepp'd forth brave Little
John
And Much, the miller's son,

Which made the young man bend
his bow,
When as he saw them come.

6. "Stand off! stand off!" the young
man said,
"What is your will with me?"
"You must come before our master
straight
Under you greenwood tree."

7. And when he came bold Robin
before,
Robin asked him courteously,
"Oh, hast thou any money to spare
For my merry men and me?"

8. "I have no money," the young man
said,
"But five shillings and a ring,
And that I have kept these seven
long years
To have at my wedding.

9. "Yesterday I should have married
a maid,
But the same from me was ta'en,
And chosen to be an old knight's
delight,
Whereby my poor heart is slain."
10. "What is thy name?" then said
Robin Hood,
"Come, tell me, without any fail";
"By the faith of my body," thus
said the young man,
"My name is Allen-a-Dale."
11. "What wilt thou give me," said
Robin Hood,
"In ready gold, as fee,
To help thee to thy true love again,
And deliver her up to thee?"
12. "I have no money," then quoth the
young man ;
"No ready gold as fee ;
But I will swear upon a book
Thy true servant to be."

13. Then Robin he hasted over the
plain,

He would neither rest nor sleep,
Until he came unto the church
Where Allen his wedding should
keep.

14. "What hast thou there?" the Bishop
then said ;

"I prithee now tell to me" ;
"I am a bold harper," quoth Robin
Hood,
"The best in the north countree."

15. "Oh welcome, oh welcome," the
Bishop then said,

"The music best pleaseth me."
"You shall have no music," quoth
Robin Hood,
"Till the bride and bridegroom I
see."

16. With that there came in a wealthy
knight,

Which was both grave and old,

And after him a familiar lass
Did shine like glittering gold.



"THEN FOUR-AND-TWENTY BOWMEN BOLD
CAME LEAPING O'ER THE LEA."

17. "This is not a fit match," quoth
Robin Hood,
"That you do seem to make here ;
For since we are come unto the
church,

The bride shall choose her own
dear."

18. Then Robin Hood put his horn to
his mouth,

And blew out blasts two or three,
Then four-and-twenty bowmen bold
Came leaping o'er the lea.

19. And when they came into the church-
yard,

Marching all in a row,
The first man was Allen-a-Dale,
To give bold Robin his bow.

20. "This is thy true love," Robin he said,
"Young Allen, as I hear say,
And you shall be married at the
same time,
Before we depart away."

21. And thus having ended this merry
wedding
The bride she looked like a queen,

And so they returned to the merry
greenwood,
Amongst the leaves so green.

OLD BALLAD (*abridged*).

- 2. *Youngster*. A young fellow.
- Roundelay*. A song in which parts are repeated.
- 4. *Clean cast*. Completely thrown off.
- 6. *Yon*. Yonder.
- 7. *Courteously*. With great politeness.
- 9. *Ta'en*. Taken.
- 11. *Fee*. Reward.
- 14. *I prithee*. I pray you.
- 16. *Familiar*. Frank and free in manner.
- 18. *Lea*. Meadow.

12.—William Wallace

con'quer	reign	wreath
con-demned'		hur'dle

1. Scotland used to have a king of its own, but now Scotchmen and Englishmen are all under the same Queen, and have had the same kings and queens for a very long time. The Scotch have always been very fond and proud of their

country, and many times have fought bravely when others have tried to take it away from them.

2. Six hundred years ago we had a very clever king called Edward, who wanted to be King of Wales and Scotland as well as England. It did not take him long to conquer Wales. He told the people that he had got a new prince for them, and then showed them his little babe Edward, whom he named the Prince of Wales. Ever since that time the eldest son of the King or Queen of England has been called the Prince of Wales.

3. Just then the King of Scotland died, and left no child to reign after him. But there were many brave and good Scotchmen who were able to rule their country, and the Scotch people wanted to choose one of these for their king.

4. But Edward did not like this. He got them to choose a man who promised

to do just what King Edward told him. By and by the new King said he would not obey, so King Edward sent a large army to make him do so.

5. But there was one man who felt very sad to see his country ruled by an English King. He had been so badly treated by the English that he became another Robin Hood. But instead of living in the woods, like Robin, he went away into the hills, which in Scotland are very high and rough. By and by a few more Scotchmen who would not obey the English joined him.

6. This man was William Wallace—a very tall, stout, and strong man, always brave and kind. After a while more people heard about this bold chief of the hills, who was not afraid of the English, and then so many more soldiers joined him that at last he had quite a large army.

7. Then he and his soldiers set out from their hills, and after a great battle

drove all the English out of Scotland. The Scotch people then made brave Wallace King of all Scotland ; but many of the great men with strong castles thought that though Wallace had done these great things, he ought not to be greater than they. So they turned against him, and would not help him to fight the English any more.

8. Wallace was not strong enough to win the next battle, and had to hide. Then some unkind men, instead of trying to keep him safe, told the English where he was. The English soldiers took him prisoner, and put strong, heavy chains on his feet and arms.

9. He was brought to London, and the streets were filled with people who had come to see the brave hero. Wallace was taken into the great Hall at Westminster. Here they mocked him, and put a wreath on his head, to make fun of his wish to be King of Scotland.

10. Then the judges in the Hall said he

was a very wicked man, and condemned him to be killed because he did not obey King Edward. He was put on a hurdle, like those they use in the country to make sheepfolds, and taken to a great open place where he was hanged. His head was cut off, and his body cut in pieces. The pieces were sent to different places in England and Scotland, to be stuck up on the walls or over the gates of the towns. The Scotch were very angry with the English, and made up their minds more than ever that the English should not rule them. King Edward thought that when he had killed Wallace, no one else would dare to fight with him ; but he was quite wrong.

13.—Robert Bruce

rock'y

knob

thread

spi'der

fas'ten

suc-ceed'

tum'ble

1. The Scotch found another brave

man who said he would help them to drive the English back to their own country. This was Robert Bruce, who was not strong enough to do this at first, because the English had so many soldiers in Scotland. Many times Bruce tried with his brave soldiers to drive the English away, but he was nearly always beaten, and had to fly and hide himself in the hills.



“BRUCE LAY STILL AND WATCHED THE SPIDER.”

2. Once he was hiding like this in a wild rocky part, and was lying on the ground in a cave, very down-hearted, as it seemed of no use to try and drive the

English away. He thought to himself, "I will give it all up and never try any more."

3. Just as he was saying this, he saw in a corner a spider. Bruce lay still and watched the spider, which was trying to carry his thread to a little knob of stone to which he wanted to fasten it. But every time the spider got near to the place he lost his hold and fell right down to the ground, breaking the thread and tearing the web he had made.

4. "Poor spider," said Bruce; "how much he is like me. He tries and tries, but cannot succeed." Then Bruce watched him more than ever. Again and again the spider climbed up the walls of the cave with his thread, but only to tumble down again.

5. "Surely he will never try any more," said Bruce; "he has tried nine times already." But the brave spider got up and set to work with more care than ever. When the spider got near the

place he went very slow, and at last he got to the place he had been trying to reach so long.

6. "Hurrah!" shouted Bruce, and he jumped up and clapped his hands. "Never say die. I'll be like the spider and try again." And so he did; and fought so bravely and wisely that he won nearly every battle against the English.

7. At last he was crowned King of Scotland, and for nearly three hundred years afterwards the Scotch had their own kings.

14.—The Siege of Calais

climb	pier	meant
Cal'ais	mem'o-ry	lis'ten
queer	leath'er	offered

1. If you climb up the high cliffs at Dover you can see across the sea a town called Calais, and at night-time you can see the light flashing from the old light-

house. It has a queer old pier, and after going along a narrow street there is a large open square.

2. If it is market-day, the square will be full of little stalls laden with everything you want to buy. The dresses and talk of the people will seem very strange. Across the square there is a building larger than the others. That is the Town Hall.

3. The statue in front is in memory of the man who took Calais from the English three hundred years ago.

4. The French king died, but had no son to be king after him. He was uncle to our English King, Edward. This Edward was the grandson of the King Edward who killed Wallace, and he was very fond of fighting. He thought he would try to win back all the French country that the English kings used to have.

5. But he could not win it without fighting a great deal, and so he wanted

a town where his ships could land the English soldiers. Calais was the best and nearest town ; but a strong and high wall was built all round it, and plenty of French soldiers were inside, with bows and arrows and swords and spears, to keep the English outside the walls.

6. The people had stored a great deal of food so that they could live a long time without getting any more from the outside.

7. King Edward put his soldiers in seven hundred ships at Dover and sailed across the sea. He soon saw that it would take a long time to win this strong town, so he built hundreds of little huts for his soldiers, and they camped all round the town.

8. Many times the soldiers tried to break through the wall, but the brave French soldiers always drove them back. After several months the food was nearly all gone and the English would not let them get any more.

9. By and by the French king came with his army, and the poor people inside were very glad to think that now the English would be driven away. But the French king was frightened to see so many English, and went away.

10. Then the people were very sad. Many fathers and mothers and little children had died because there was hardly anything to eat, and they had been trying to live on cats and dogs and rats, and even leather.

11. King Edward meant them to suffer thus if they would not give up the town to him. At last they thought they must give it up to save all the poor people from starving. Then the chief soldier of the French went to King Edward and said they would give him the town if he would promise not to kill any of the people.

12. But Edward was very angry because they had not given it to him before, and said that if six of the richest

men in Calais came to him with nothing on but their shirts, and with ropes round their necks, he would behead them and forgive all the others.

13. The people were told what King Edward said, and there was a great meeting. No one spoke for some time, and you could hear nothing but women and children crying. At last the richest man in the town said he would go and die for the others. In a few minutes five others said they would go with him.

14. They took off their hats, shoes, and everything but their shirts, tied ropes round their necks, and taking the great iron keys of the gate passed sadly along the street. The gate was opened, and they went slowly to the tent of the King.

15. When Edward saw them he frowned at them and said: "Take them away and kill them."

16. The Prince of Wales, who was there, felt sad for them. He begged his

father to save these brave men. But Edward would not listen. All the



"THE QUEEN FELL DOWN AT HIS FEET AND BEGGED HARD FOR
THE MEN'S LIVES."

soldiers in the tent asked the King to save them, but still he would not listen.

17. Then his noble and brave queen,

who had just come over the sea to join him, fell down at his feet and begged hard for the men's lives. Edward loved his wife very much, and so he did not speak for some time. He then said: "Noble wife, I can refuse you nothing. Take the men: but I wish you had not asked."

18. Then all were glad except Edward, whose heart was very cruel and hard to all who did not do as he told them. Then the Queen took the men to her tent, made them sit down to a feast, and sent them home with presents.

19. Then all the people in the town were told to leave their houses and to go and live somewhere else. English people went over the sea to live there, and the town belonged to us for two hundred years.

20. But the people of Calais have never forgotten the six brave men who offered to die for the others.

15.—The Black Death

no'ticed

fear'ful

dis-eas'es

plague

boils

1. You all know how often the dust-man comes round with his cart to take away all the dirt. Perhaps you have noticed what a very nasty smell there is near a heap of such dirt if it has been lying for some time.

2. If you were to stay long near it you would get very ill with a fever. Large pipes running under the ground take away other things that would make people ill.

3. A great deal of our sickness comes because there is something wrong with these pipes. And there are men now in every town to look after them.

4. But long ago nobody cared about taking away these things that cause illness. Very often fearful diseases would break out in some part of the

world where the people lived very dirty lives, and then these diseases would travel from one country to another.

5. A very dreadful plague came to England in this way when King Edward was trying to take away Calais from the French people. It came from places far away in the East.

6. People began to feel ill, and then dreadful boils broke out over all their body, and great black places formed under their skin. One person took it from another, and at last somebody brought it to our country.

7. No doctors could find any cure for it. Nobody knew what to do.

8. Even the King's daughter died, and the towns that used to be full of happy homes were now sad and quiet. Instead of being full of merry children and busy men and women, the streets were empty. Just a few people who looked half afraid to move about were seen now and then.

9. In the country places sometimes not a single person was left. The cottages were empty, and the farms uncared for. The poor cows and sheep and horses had no one to look after them. The wheat and barley was left in the fields, for no reapers came to cut it down.

10. Next year the poor people that were left could hardly get anything to eat ; for in those days people made their bread from the corn that grew in their own fields.

11. So dreadful was the suffering at that time that it has always been known as the Black Death.

16.—Wat Tyler

plough	a-greed'	boast'ed
la'bour-ers	search	thieves
	lan'guage	

1. The Black Death swept away nearly half the people. There was no one left in many places to plough or sow.

2. The sheep and cattle wandered about as they liked, spoiling more than they ate. Such labourers as were left would not work without higher wages, and in some parts became robbers.

3. The King wanted money to carry on the war with France, and to please his nobles and the rich people he agreed to a law which fixed the wage a labourer could demand, and forbade him to leave his own parish in search of work. If a man refused to obey he was put in prison and in some cases burnt with a hot iron in the forehead.

4. The poor people both in the towns and the villages were very angry and fierce about these cruel and unjust laws.

5. A priest in Kent named John Ball went about preaching that all men were equal, and ought to be treated alike. He said it was not right that some should be clothed in velvet, and have wine and fair bread, whilst those who worked

should have only oat-cake, straw, water, and rags.

6. At last a new tax was placed upon everybody, which was a poll-tax of so much a head, so that the poor paid just as much as the rich. Then the people rose all over the land in revolt.

7. Jack Straw in Essex, and Wat Tyler in Kent, gathered the people together and marched to London.

8. Tyler was very angry because his little daughter had been treated very badly by the tax-gatherer, and he killed him with his blacksmith's hammer.

9. They were a rough, cruel lot, but they thought they were doing the right thing to obtain justice.

10. "Help truth," they said, "and truth shall help you! Let might help right, and skill go before will, and right before might."

11. The gates of London were opened by the poor people, and the great crowd rushed in, burning many of the houses

of the nobles, and killing all those they could find who they thought had had anything to do with the poll-tax.

12. They would not allow any stealing, for they proudly boasted that they were “seekers of truth and justice, not thieves or robbers.”

13. The King was only sixteen years old ; but when he met the crowd he was not afraid, but told them to go home and he would see that they should be free.

14. Many went home, but Tyler and some thirty thousand men remained in London.

15. They met the King next day in Smithfield, and there was a quarrel ; and Tyler having used some very bad language to the King, William Walworth, who was then Mayor of London, stabbed him with his dagger.

16. “Kill ! kill !” shouted the crowd ; “they have killed our Captain.” But the young King was very brave, and rode boldly to the front, saying : “Follow

me! I am your Captain and your King."



"WILLIAM WALWORTH STABBED HIM WITH HIS DAGGER."

17. The crowd were pleased, and quietly followed him to the Tower.

18. The nobles would not allow the King to keep his word, and much misery followed the peasants' revolt.

17.—King Henry V

slip'per-y

hatch'ets

1. Some time after this we had a young King Henry, who was very much liked by the people. He had been fond of all kinds of fun before he became King, but he made up his mind that he would try to be good when his father died. He liked all kinds of sport and out-of-door games, and thought that a good king ought to be a good soldier.

2. So he got together a large army of English soldiers, put them on board ship at a large seaport town near the Isle of Wight, and sailed with them over to France. The French people thought that the English had no more right to any of their land than the French had with England.

3. So they called together all their fighting men ; and the French army was a very large one. All the princes and

nobles of the land were in it. They knew that Henry's army was very small, because so many had died since they came to France.



"KING HENRY WENT ALL ROUND AMONGST HIS MEN."

4. They said: "We will go to meet the English and give them such a beating that they will never dare to come into our country again." The two armies met in an open flat place between two woods.

5. This place was all divided up into fields, and some of these had been ploughed, and were very muddy and slippery because it had been raining hard. Both armies waited until the next day for the great fight.

6. In the morning King Henry went all round amongst his men. He looked so cheery and bright, his blue eyes shone so with hope and courage, he spoke so bravely and kindly, that all the English soldiers felt they could be as brave as he. They were not in the least afraid of all that host of Frenchmen.

7. The French army was so large that there was not enough room between the two woods for it to move, and it was led by five or six princes who did not agree as to what they should do.

8. By and by our King Henry told the archers who were in the front to shoot. Then when hundreds of French soldiers on horseback were tumbling about on the slippery fields, the archers

rushed on them with their hatchets and killed them on every side. Then when King Henry saw that the French were all mixed up, he told the rest of our soldiers to rush upon them, and thousands of that great French army were killed.

18.—Joan Darc

Or-leans'

arm'our

witch

1. After this many more battles were fought, and the English won nearly all the country for themselves. But in a little village there lived with her parents a French girl, in a poor cottage by the side of a wood. Her father was a farmer, and Joan often used to drive the cows and look after the sheep.

2. When she was by herself she used to think of poor France. Sometimes she heard people tell how the English soldiers were marching everywhere,

burning the towns and villages of her beautiful country. She heard them say how the corn was burnt in the fields, so



"SHE USED TO THINK OF POOR FRANCE."

that there was no food for the poor people or even for the cattle.

3. So many French fathers and sons were being killed by the English, that the little children had nobody to get food or clothes for them.

4. "Oh," thought Joan, "what a fearful thing war is! I do wish I could do something to drive these English out of my country." One day she saw some soldiers carrying a wounded man along near her house. She took him in and nursed him until he was well again.

5. He told her many dreadful stories about the war, and while she was doing all she could to make the soldier well, she felt for her poor country more and more. By and by something seemed to tell her that God meant her to do the work.

6. Every day it seemed more clear to her that she must go to the French prince, and drive the English from the great city called Orleans, and crown the prince King of all France. But she was only a poor country girl, and was very timid.

7. The whole country too was full of soldiers, who might treat her very roughly. Her parents did not want

her to go, and thought she was a very silly girl.

8. Some friends took her to the Prince, who laughed at her at first, but afterwards believed her. Armour, just like that which the men wore, was brought for her to put on, and a beautiful horse was given her to ride.

9. How the French soldiers wondered when they saw Joan riding towards them without fear! In the next battle she led them on, and so well, too, that the French felt they could do anything now, and won battle after battle. They drove the English away from the city, and the Prince was crowned.

10. When brave Joan saw the crown placed on the Prince's head, she felt that she had done all the work she was sent to do, and asked that she might go home to her parents at the quiet farm by the wood. But the French would not let her go, because they were afraid that they would not win when she was gone.

So she fought still for them, but felt all the time that she ought not to be there.

11. At last some wicked people, finding she was not the same as she used to be, told all kinds of lies about her. Then she was taken by a prince of her own country to the English soldiers, who of course believed her to be wicked. They put her in prison, and were very cruel to her, and at last burned her as a witch.

12. This was one of the very worst things English people ever did. But though she died, Joan had done her work well, for soon afterwards all the English were driven out of France.

19.—Printing the first Book in England

parch'ment goats Ger'man squeeze

1. If we had been living as English boys and girls when Joan Darc was driving our soldiers out of France, we should have had no nice stories to read

in printed books. But now for a little money we can get all kinds of books with good tales and fine pictures.

2. Books were so dear that only the rich people could get them, and even they could not get many. Every book had then to be written with a pen on paper or on parchment which was made from the skins of sheep or goats, and you can fancy what a long time it would take to write a whole book. Besides, there were not many people who could write, and so they had to be paid a good deal. But some of the men who wrote these books were very clever, and painted very pretty letters in the books.

3. It was a man in Germany who first began to try how books could be made quicker than men wrote them. About the time when the French people were driving us out of their country, a young man went from a shop in London to live in a country near Germany.

4. This young man worked hard

and got very rich. One day some one told him of the new way of making books the German had found out. This young man was very fond of books himself, and thought: "I should like to learn this new way and teach it to the English at home." So he went and watched how it was done.

5. If you had a little block of wood with a letter cut on it backwards like this **E**, and then rubbed ink on the letter and stamped it hard upon some paper, you would see the letter stamped or printed on the paper.

6. Thus you see that to print, all they had to do was to cut different letters backwards, put them upright in straight rows, rub a roller of ink over all the letters, and press some paper down on them very tightly. When the paper was taken off, all the letters were seen printed on it.

7 "Well," said the young man, whose name was Caxton, "how easy that is!

How strange that nobody thought of it before ! I'll get a lot of these letter-blocks for myself, and a press to squeeze the paper down tight, and then I'll print the book I have just finished writing." So the very first book printed in English was printed out of England.

8. But Caxton longed to get back to his own land. He had been away for nearly forty years. So he put his printing-press on board ship and came to London. Caxton set up his printing-press in a shop near Westminster Abbey.

9. Of course all the children ran to see what kind of a shop it was. Inside was a large wooden frame and piles of paper. The men in the shop began to work the strange-looking frame, and the men and women passing along the street stopped to look.

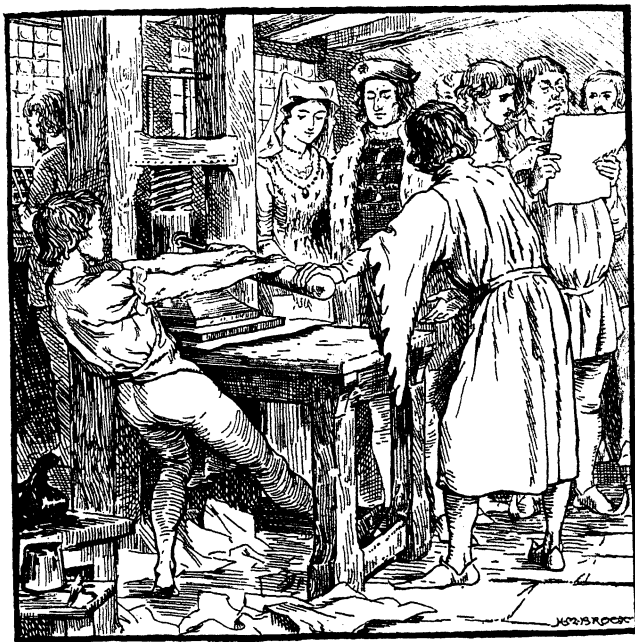
10. Some go inside to watch the work going on. They speak to the fine-looking man who is the master. "Good morrow, Master Caxton, and how does this new

book look?"—"It is not yet finished," says Caxton, "but the last pages will be printed this morning"; and he takes up a few pages to show what it looks like. "You shall have it cheap," says Caxton, very happy to see people so much pleased with his work, which was about the game of chess.

11. Even the King went to see the first book printed in England, and looked in wonder while the paper was pressed on the inky blocks. Caxton took the sheets of paper, folded them up, and, putting them together, said to King Edward: "Sire, when these are sewn together, put between covers, and the edges cut, the book will be finished. I will send the first one to the palace." The King was very pleased, and asked Caxton to send him every new book he printed.

12. For many years after this the good and clever printer spent all his time in printing the best books he knew

of, for English people to read. Four hundred years have passed away since then, but we must still thank him for the many nice books we can read to-day.



"EVEN THE KING WENT TO SEE."

20.—The Princes in the Tower

crook'ed should'ers stair'case smoth'ered

1. The Tower of London is close by the River Thames, and its great square tower can be seen a long way off. You remember about the Norman castle with its moat and keep. This Tower of London was built by William the Norman.

2. The walls are ten feet thick, and it is built as strong as they could make it. The moat is now dry, and is planted with gardens where children can play. There are so many houses and courts within the moat that to go to the Tower is like going to a little town.

3. We go under one archway, and then another, and after a few steps come to a very dark gateway on the left hand. There are some letters printed on a board to tell us that the name of this ill-looking place is the "Bloody Tower."

4. The brother of the tall, handsome

King who went to see Caxton's shop wanted very much to be king. But King Edward had two little boys, and the elder of these would be king when his father died.

5. The King did not know the wicked thoughts that were in the mind of his brother. The uncle of the boys was short, and a little crooked in the shoulders, and not at all so pleasant to look at as the tall King Edward.

6. When the King died, the uncle, Richard, had the care of these two little boys. He said that the little lads would be safer in the Tower than living with their mother—a very kind lady, who loved her boys all the more now that their father was dead. So the cruel uncle sent his soldiers to take the little princes to the Tower, and when the mother kissed them and said “Good-bye” she seemed to feel that she would never see them again, and wept very much.

7. A little room was given them for their bedroom in this Bloody Tower. One night the uncle, who acted just as if he were king, told the man who took care of the Tower to go away, and he would send two men to look after it.

8. The two men came, and the next morning no one saw the little princes. They were never seen any more. A great many years after, when some men were digging under the staircase to alter some part of the Tower, they found the bones of the poor little princes.

9. One of the two men, whom the uncle sent, told the story of the little princes before he died. The wicked uncle said he would pay them well if they would kill the lads, for he wanted to be king. The two men waited until all in the Tower were asleep, and then crept up the winding stairs—the very same stairs that we go up now.

10. There lay the boys fast asleep.

They were very fond of each other, and their little arms were locked together.

11. Then the men took the pillows and



"THERE LAY THE BOYS FAST ASLEEP."

smothered the poor little lads. In a few minutes the princes were dead.

12. But the men were afraid of what they had done, and buried them as quickly as they could under the stairs at the bottom.

13. The wicked uncle was made

King, but was soon after killed in a great battle.

21.—Queen Margaret and the Robber

croak	bram'bles	con'science
depth	sheath	hom'age
ex'ile	pro-tect'ed	

1. The Red Rose was beaten,
The White Rose had won ;
The Queen was in hiding
With Edward her son.
2. Her heart was the proudest
That ever was known,
Her spirit the bravest
To fight for her throne.
3. The croak of the raven,
The cry of her child,
The depth of the forest,
The wind rushing wild,—
4. Tried hard her high spirit
With whispers of fear,

When sudden a footstep
Came near and more near.



"I AM THE QUEEN."

5. A man all in armour
Came tramping between
The brambles and brushwood,
And fronted the Queen.

6. "Now stand and deliver
Your jewels, your gold ;
Yield all you have on you,
And nothing withhold ;
7. "For I am an outlaw,
My weapon is keen."
"Friend, lower and sheath it,
For I am the Queen !
8. "Your King is in prison,
Now rescue his son ;
My gold and my jewels
The Yorkists have won."
9. The wind swept the heavens,
The moon shone out bright,
The child and the lady
Stood full in the light.
10. Bright-haired, like an angel,
Prince Edward was seen,
And there never was woman
Could look like the Queen.

11. " My castle is taken,
My children are dead ;
I took to the forest—
A price on my head.
12. " To plunder the Yorkists
My conscience was free,
False Edward had never
My oath or my knee."
13. He knelt low in homage :
" Your lives I can save ;
But here is no palace,
But only a cave,
14. " An arm to defend you,
A heart that is true,
In death or in exile,
To yours and to you."
15. The Wars of the Roses
Were cruel and wrong ;
The weak and the simple
Were crushed by the strong ;

16. But one heart was faithful,
 One good deed was done,
 When the outlaw protected
 The Queen and her son.

C. J. COLERIDGE (*abridged*).

1. *The Red Rose.* The Lancastrian party, headed by King Henry VI. and his Queen Margaret ; who had taken a red rose as their badge, or emblem.

The White Rose. Their enemies of the opposite party, headed by the Duke of York, afterwards King Edward IV., who chose a white rose as a badge.

13. *Homage.* Reverent submission.

22.—Mary Queen of Scots

Scotch E-liz'a-beth friend'ly
 prob'a-bly tombs

1. Mary was an unhappy Queen of Scotland, who was shut up in a good many strong castles and at last put to death. In those times, three hundred years ago, the Scotch people had a queen of their own.

2. This Queen of Scotland was a

very beautiful lady, but she had many friends who got her to do very foolish things, which did not please the Scotch people at all. One of the foolish things she did was to say that she ought to be Queen of England instead of our Queen Elizabeth, whom nearly everybody in England liked.

3. There were people who were always trying to kill Queen Elizabeth, so that Mary of Scotland might have her place. Queen Elizabeth knew this, and did not feel very friendly towards Mary. Soon after, the Scotch people got very angry with their Queen because they believed she had killed her husband. This was probably true ; but we cannot pity him much, because he had been a very bad, cruel man. So angry were the Scotch people that they shut her up in a strong castle on an island in the middle of a lake.

4. But Mary got away and called together her friends. She was beaten

in battle and had to ride off to England as fast as her horse could go. When she got into England she did not know what to do, because Queen Elizabeth



"SHE WAS BEATEN IN BATTLE AND HAD TO RIDE OFF."

did not like her. She sent a letter asking Queen Elizabeth not to let any one hurt her, but the Queen caused her to be shut up in a strong castle.

5. While she was there a plot was made to kill Queen Elizabeth, and make

Mary Queen of England. Mary knew nothing about this, but Queen Elizabeth found it out, and was told by her great men that she would never be safe as long as Mary was alive.

6. Although Elizabeth did not like Mary, she did not really want to kill her. But she at last gave way, and Mary's head was cut off. She was buried in Westminster Abbey, and there in a beautiful chapel are the tombs of the two Queens side by side.

23.—King Philip of Spain

peo'ple blaz'ing thought pitch

1. Soon after Mary Queen of Scots was dead, her friend, King Philip of Spain, made up his mind to send hundreds of ships full of soldiers to England, to drive Elizabeth away, and to make England a part of his own country.

2. He was a very cruel king, and a good many English soldiers had gone to help some of his people to fight against him. Philip did not like this, and besides he wanted to keep for himself all that great country across the seas called America.

3. The English people did not see why they should not go to America as well as the Spaniards. But English sailors were always ready to fight the Spanish sailors, and then to take all the gold and silver that they could find in the Spanish ships.

4. This made Philip very angry, and he made up his mind to punish the English and their Queen. At last all Philip's fine large ships were ready, and very pretty they looked. They sailed along until they came so close to England that they could be seen from the cliffs.

5. How do you think those who saw them first let all the people in England know that the Spaniards were coming?

There was then no penny post. ~~They~~ lit a big bonfire on the highest hill. The people who lived near the hills a long way off saw it, and lit bonfires on their hills. Other people saw these, and very soon there were bonfires blazing on nearly all the hills and church-towers in England.

6. All along the English Channel the great ships of Spain came. The English had not nearly so many ships, and they were smaller too. But our ships sailed after the Spanish ships, and did them a lot of damage, and then sailed away before the Spaniards had time to hurt them.

7. Philip's ships were going to a place where there was a large army of Spanish soldiers waiting to be carried across to England. The night before the soldiers were to sail for England a bright thought struck some of the English sailors. They filled some ships with all kinds of stuff that will burn well, pitch and tar and

such things, and then set them on fire, and let the wind blow them right amongst the Spanish ships.

8. The men were so frightened that they turned their ships anywhere to get away from the fire.

9. Just after the blazing fire-ships had gone in amongst the Spaniards, a storm of wind arose and blew the great vessels on the rocks. So the soldiers who were to come to England never came at all.

24.—Sir Philip Sidney

beau'ty

thirst'y

1. Amongst the English soldiers who went over the sea to help those who were fighting against cruel King Philip was one young man whom everybody loved. He was a very great man, so clever that Queen Elizabeth trusted him to do a great deal of her work.

2. She was very fond of having him near her, because she felt she could trust him, and every one was very proud to have him as their friend. He was not only a brave soldier, but a writer of books full of beauty and wit.

3. Sir Philip Sidney was the captain of a large number of soldiers who were fighting against King Philip, and one day he led his soldiers against a small town with a wall all round it. It was a very foggy day, and before Sir Philip or his men could know anything about it, a large number of Spanish soldiers came upon them.

4. But Sir Philip did not run away. He cheered his men on, and rushed in front of them against the Spaniards. His soldiers were so fond of their kind and brave chief that wherever he went they would go.

5. The Spaniards had to run away beaten, but a man on the wall shot at Sir Philip, and the bullet went into his

leg. The doctors tried to get it out, but it had gone in too far, and threw him into a fever, which made him very thirsty.



“ANOTHER WOUNDED SOLDIER WAS CARRIED BY.”

6. Sir Philip asked for some water, and a soldier ran to get it. He had just come back with the water, and was giving it to Sir Philip to drink, when another wounded soldier was carried by.

He too longed for a drink of water to cool his burning lips and throat.

7. As Sir Philip was raising it to his mouth to drink he saw the soldier, and put the water away from his lips without tasting it, and gave it to the poor soldier, saying: "Drink it up ; you need it more than I do." Was not that kind? All his life-long Philip was doing kind acts like this.

8. He died from his wound, and his body was brought home and buried in Westminster Abbey.

25.—The Gunpowder Plot

guys	judge	Fawkes
Par'lia-ment	gun'pow-der	muff'led
a-grees'	casks	lant'ern
	reached	

1. There are not many boys or girls who forget the 5th of November, when the guys are carried through the streets,

the bonfires are lit, and the fireworks let off.

2. Every year Parliament meets together in London in two large halls, to say what English men and women must do and what they must not do. All this is written down, and if the King agrees to it, everybody must obey. If you do not obey, you can be taken before a judge and made to pay some money or go to prison.

3. There were a great many people who did not like what King James and Parliament had done, and who got so angry that they made up their minds to punish them. Once a year the King used to go down to meet Parliament.

4. So four or five of the most angry and cruel of those who wanted to punish their rulers said: "When the King and all these gentlemen are met, we could blow them all up with gunpowder!"

5. Under the place where the King and Parliament met were a good many

cellars, for the place was a very large one. These angry men hired one of the cellars, and pretended that they wanted to store away a lot of wood and casks for a time.

6. But the casks were filled with gunpowder. At last all the casks were ready in the dark cellar the night before King James was to meet Parliament in the rooms above. But who was to light the match and set fire to all these casks?

7. The man who had first thought of this cruel plan knew a soldier named Guy Fawkes, who feared nothing. He told Guy what he wanted him to do, and Guy said: "Yes, I will do it." So on the night before Parliament met he hid in the dark cellar, muffled in a long dark cloak, and with a big black hat pulled down over his eyes.

8. He had a lantern to give him a little light. The next morning he would light a very long match and then get

away out of the cellar to a ship which would take him across the sea.

9. But by that time the flame would have reached the casks, and all the buildings above would be blown to pieces, and the King and all the people there killed.

10. But one of the men who had bought the casks of gunpowder and put them in the cellar had a friend who would be in the rooms above to meet the King, and he did not wish that his friend should be killed. So he wrote a letter asking him to stop away, because something dreadful would happen. His friend did not know what it meant, so he took it to King James, who at once thought: "They are going to blow up the place with gunpowder when I am there."

11. The King at once sent men to search the cellars, and there they found Guy Fawkes with his lantern. "What are you doing?" they said. "Looking after

my master's goods," said Guy. "Your master has a good stock," they said, and began to search his pockets. They found there some matches, and took him



"THE KING AT ONCE SENT MEN TO SEARCH THE CELLARS."

at once to the King, who asked him what he was doing in the cellar.

12. Guy, not a bit afraid, told him the whole truth. Then the King said he was to be put into prison. The other men

soon found out that Guy Fawkes had been taken by the King's soldiers. Then they rode off as fast as they could, but were all caught, put into prison, and were hanged along with Guy Fawkes.

13. Guy was taken in the cellar on the 5th of November, and the people were so glad that the wicked deed was found out in time that they lit bonfires everywhere.

26.—The Great Fire

gilt

pill'ar

1. There is in London a very high pillar with a great gilt ball at the top. A winding staircase inside the pillar leads right to the top, where there is a fence all round so that you cannot fall off.

2. All the streets and shops for miles, the wide river Thames, and the great Cathedral, can be seen from the monument.

3. When King Charles, the grandson of James, was King, a dreadful disease came to London like that which did such harm in Wat Tyler's time. But it passed away at last, and the people who had run away so as not to catch it were coming back to live in London, when one day a great cloud of smoke was seen from the houses near the river Thames.

4. Soon the flames were seen mounting high up above the chimneys. Nearly all the houses in London were made of wood, and the weather had been very hot, so that they burned easily. The wind carried the flames from one row of houses to another, until thousands of houses were burnt.

5. The people rushed out into the fields. The great church of St. Paul's was burned right down, and for several days the houses kept burning. King Charles and many brave men were out every day trying to put the fire out.

6. "What a dreadful thing!" you say. No; it was the very best thing that could have happened for London. The



"THE PEOPLE RUSHED OUT INTO THE FIELDS."

seeds of the dreadful illness were still hidden in the dirty streets and houses, and the Great Fire burnt up houses, dirt, disease and all.

7. It was found out that the fire started, though no one knew how, in a baker's shop in Pudding Lane. And it is funny that it stopped at a place called Pie Corner. On the very spot where the baker's shop stood they built the tall pillar, so that people should not forget the Great Fire.

27.—Nelson

wan'dered	in-vade'	ex-pects'
Na-po'le-on	Traf-al-gar'	col'umn
vic'tory	in-va'sion	

1. A little boy once lost his way in a thunder-storm, and wandered about for some hours.

2. When his friends found him they asked him if he was not afraid.

3. The little fellow replied: "Afraid! what does that mean?"

4. The brave boy grew up to be a brave and kind man, and England's greatest sailor.

5. In the Battle of the Nile, which was fought to prevent Napoleon reaching India, Nelson was wounded and carried off the deck to be attended to by the doctor.

6. But when the doctor left a sailor whose wounds he was dressing, Nelson said: "No, I will take my turn with my brave fellows."

7. The French had planned to invade England, and had got a very large army ready to cross.

8. But whilst they waited for their fleet to come and protect the army and help in the crossing, Nelson caught the French ships in Trafalgar Bay.

9. As the English ships got into their places for the fight Nelson gave his famous signal: "England expects every man to do his duty."

10. It was Nelson's last fight. As he stood on the deck of his ship doing his duty, watching, cheering, and directing, he was shot.

11. The great column and lions in Trafalgar Square were made in memory



"HE WAS SHOT."

of the great victory which put an end to all fear of invasion.

12. In the National Gallery there are one or two pictures of ships and men who were in the great fight.

5. *Napoleon.* The Emperor of the French.

28.—Victoria's Promise

1. Near London is a garden,
All fresh and green and cool,
Where little children run and laugh,
And ducks swim in a pool.
2. The children feed the ducklings,
Birds sing and all is gay,
Near to the fine old Palace,
At the blooming of the May.
3. Within that old red Palace,
One morning, long ago,
A maiden said her lessons,
And learnt to read and sew.
4. A stately little lady,
Blue-eyed and fair to see,—
With all her might and all her wits
She learnt her history.
5. "See, Princess," said her tutor,
"The root from which you spring.
Show how the throne descended
To our present gracious King."

6. "My uncle has no children :
Who, when he comes to die,
Will then be King of England,—
Oh, mother, is it I ?
7. "For I can find no other
That is so near in blood :
I am his brother's daughter,
But I never understood——"
8. "My child," then said her mother,
You are King William's heir ;
You will be Queen of England,—
God keep you in His care !"
9. And then the child's white forehead
Flushed with new thoughts and
fears ;
Her blue eyes shone with purpose,
Although they filled with tears.
10. "Mamma, what you have told me
Is a solemn thing to hear.
I'll try to do my duty,
But I am full of fear."

11. She has had many troubles,
 She has wept bitter tears,
 She has borne many burdens,
 She has lived many years.

12. But she has kept her promise
 Through all her length of life ;
 And all her subjects bless her—
 Good mother, queen, and wife.
 C. J. COLERIDGE (*abridged*).

1. *A garden.* Kensington Gardens.
2. *The fine old Palace.* Kensington Palace, where Queen Victoria lived as a little girl.
5. *Tutor.* A private teacher.
The root. The family.
Our present gracious King. William IV., who was on the throne at the time of the events told in the verses.
6. *My uncle.* Queen Victoria is the niece of William IV.
7. *So near in blood.* So near a relation.
8. *Heir.* A person who succeeds to the property or rights of another.

29.—Sir Henry Havelock

speech Hin-doo' knock brav'er-y

1. India is a country far away over the seas. The sun is very hot there, and

the people have dark skins and a speech not at all like ours. It is a very big country, and a great many Englishmen have lost their lives in winning it for us.

2. The natives are mostly very quiet, and seem as if they did not care who was in power.

3. But a few years ago the people of India were not pleased with what the English were doing. There are a great many large cities in India crowded with dark-skinned people, and in each there were soldiers to take care of it for the Queen.

4. Besides the soldiers, a good many other Englishmen who had work to do were there with their wives and little children.

5. The people of India made a plot to kill all the English in every city. The men, women, and children fled for safety to the strong places where the soldiers lived.

6. One great city called Lucknow had but a little band of soldiers to protect the

other English people who had shut themselves up in the strong fort. All around the fort were thousands of angry Hindoo soldiers trying to get in. All day long and every day they kept shooting at the place where the English were. The brave English soldiers did their best to defend their post.

7. But day by day the food they had to eat was getting less and less. They could not stir out into the street to try and get more food without being shot. Many were wounded or ill. They sent to the nearest city to ask the people there to drive away the Hindoos and bring them food. But no help came.

8. At last a brave soldier called Henry Havelock said he would go with some soldiers and fight his way through the Hindoos to carry help to the suffering English. At first he was driven back because the Hindoos were so many, but he tried again, being helped by another English soldier.

9. Before they could get to the gates of the city they had to push their way through thousands of Hindoos, who were shooting all the time at them. Many fell dead, but they pressed on, and, bursting through the gate, were at last in the streets of the city.

10. But before they could get to the place where the English had shut themselves up, they had to fight their way along street after street, while the Hindoos were shooting at them from the top of each house. At last they got to the fort and met their friends. But still their enemies were all round them, and they must go on fighting until a stronger army could be sent to drive the Hindoos away.

11. When the Hindoos found that they could not knock the walls down, they dug tunnels under the ground, and tried to blow the English up with gunpowder.

12. One day the soldiers saw from the

walls a cloud of dust in the distance. It was the English army coming to help them. After a great deal of fighting the Hindoos were driven away, and the brave defenders could go about as they liked.

13. But brave Henry Havelock was dying of fever, and only lived long enough to hear how much the Queen and all the English people loved him for his goodness and bravery.

6. *Hindoo*. A native of that part of India which is called Hindostan.

THE END